

6 IN THE MATTER OF:

8 t/a Bliss :

9 2122 24th Place Northeast :

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10 License #95711 :
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11  Retailer CT :
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12 ANC 5C :

14 Wednesday, May 11, 2016

16 Whereupon, the above-referenced matter
17 came on for hearing at the Alcoholic Beverage
18 Control Board, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street,
19 N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009.

1 BOARD'S AGENT:

2 DONOVAN ANDERSON, Presiding

3

4 Board MEMBERS

5 RUTHANNE MILLER

6 NICK ALBERTI

7 MIKE SILVERSTEIN

8 JAMES SHORT

9

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 MAKAN SHIRAFKAN

12 HENOCK ANDARGIE

13 VERNON LEFTWICH

14 KEVIN PUENTE

15

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 FACT FINDING HEARING

3 [On the record 3:40 p.m.]

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: We're back on the
5 record. This is a follow-up on a police closure.
6 and we have Fact Finding Hearing for Case #16-
7 251-00074, Bliss, license #95711. Will the
8 parties please approach and identify yourselves
9 for the record please.

10 MR. SHIRAFKAN: Good afternoon, Makan
11 Shirafkan. Last name is S-H-I-R-A-F-K-A-N. I am
12 the licensee.

13 MR. ANDARGIE: Henock Andargie, H-E-N-O-
14 C-K, A-N-D-A-R-G-I-E. Owner of Bliss.

15 MR. LEFTWICH: Investigator Vernon
16 Leftwich. L-E-F-T-W-I-C-H.

17 MR. PUENTE: Investigator Kevin Puente.
18 P-U-E-N-T-E.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, this is
20 a -- I don't have it. This is a follow-up on a -
21 - closure, so who wants to go first? Who is from
22 that, the investigator?

1 MR. LEFWICH: On the night of the
2 incident, Sunday -- or the morning, rather --
3 Sunday April 22 -- 24, 2015 -- there was an
4 assault within the establishment, there was a
5 male patron who was carried outside, there was
6 security staff didn't see anything lead up, he
7 was carried outside and once the victim was
8 carried outside he was shown to have multiple
9 stab wounds to his neck and back and leg, and
10 there was another victim who was sitting outside
11 on the curb who was -- who received another stab
12 wound -- and after viewing the video footage you
13 can see that someone is making stabbing motions,
14 but can't really see a lead up.

15 The crowd took a while to even respond,
16 but you do see security responding to them within
17 a few seconds. They assisted the victim outside.
18 There was MPD detail outside who called medical
19 attention and the establishment was cleared out.
20 Once I arrived to the establishment, myself and
21 investigator [inaudible 16:45] were able to
22 conduct a few interviews, went over their

1 security procedure. They had 52 camera operating
2 on the night of the incident and they had 52
3 cameras within the establishment, so MPD detail
4 was there, they requested eight, there were only
5 reported four MPD officers there but after a
6 closed meeting it was determined there were
7 actually six officers there on the night outside
8 that was there for crowd control.

9 The establishment secured the crime
10 scene. MPD were there to make sure that nothing
11 happened to the crime scene. The victim didn't
12 report knowing what occurred or why it occurred.
13 They noted that they were in the wrong place at
14 the wrong time and that they weren't the intended
15 target. It wasn't confirmed they were the only
16 ones. In addition to that there was a shooting
17 outside of the -- across the street at a nearby
18 gas station which is often patronized the patrons
19 from the establishment as reported by MPD, as
20 well as there was gunshots that were heard
21 earlier in the night at a nearby apartment lot,
22 so MPD was there concerning that as well.

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Leftwich could you
2 repeat the last part of that?

3 MR. LEFTWICH: There was a gunshot that
4 were fired. No one was injured. That happened
5 earlier in the night. The MPD reported at an
6 apartment lot that was used -- often used by
7 patrons of the establishment. The victim, who
8 was someone that was shot at the gas station,
9 however, he reported that he doesn't necessarily
10 know who shot him or like how it occurred, he
11 just knows that he was shot in the buttocks
12 because that was an ongoing thing, we didn't get
13 much information from that.

14 MR. PUENTE: So, on Friday, April 29, at
15 approximately 8:00 p.m. myself and investigator
16 Peru arrived at the establishment to a minor
17 security training that was being conducted by --
18 security Derrick Brooks. Mr. Brooks had done
19 security training in October after the last
20 incident. So, Mr. Brooks stated that he wanted
21 to cover several topics from security functions,
22 situational awareness, responsibilities of each

1 staff member, techniques and prevention and
2 mitigation, and do a group discussion. Mr.
3 Brooks walked his staff through the security
4 functions page by page and went into detail of
5 the some of the major points for crime scene
6 prevention, crowd control, and he emphasized each
7 role of the staff members from the bartender to
8 the security personnel to a server, to a busboy
9 and to the management team.

10 Mr. Brooks advised the staff they should
11 never let the parties involved in an altercation
12 or incident leave the establishment but escort
13 them to other parts of the building if they need
14 EMS or 911 call that. Mr. Brooks emphasized to
15 never rely on the police details because some
16 might be pulled off in case there's a shooting
17 nearby and that they should always call 911 to be
18 the first step. Mr. Brooks then set up a mock
19 crime scene and walked the staff through each
20 part of it, who should be taking pictures, how to
21 preserve it, the tables around it so no one's
22 walking through it, have staff escorting patrons

1 out of the area. Mr. Brooks concluded the
2 security training that lasted approximately about
3 an hour and a half. Mr. Brooks stated that
4 wanted to go over more detail but the manager
5 just wanted him to emphasize the security plan
6 and crime scene preservation.

7 Mr. Brooks also advised that he'll be
8 back out in the summer months to do a three-day
9 training with the establishment covering a wide
10 range of issues from security to [inaudible
11 20:32] training. That's to cover three days. It
12 was noted that several of the staff members, Mr.
13 Brooks asked the staff to describe what happened
14 that night and some of the staff stated that the
15 security personnel who were involved weren't at
16 the establishment at that time during the
17 training. Myself and Investigator Peru counted
18 66 staff members present and we've got the signup
19 sheet and counted and it had 66 signatures on it
20 as well. And that concluded the training.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Do you have any
22 other comments you want to make before I have

1 them testify?

2 MR. LEFTWICH: One thing. The security
3 officer who assisted the first victim outside of
4 the establishment, it was reported that he had to
5 leave so that by the time we got there he was not
6 there and we weren't able to interview him.
7 Another, the head of security, reported that he
8 had to go pick up his child which was why he
9 wasn't there.

10 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Did he sign in as
11 being there?

12 MR. LEFTWICH: Well, I'm talking about the
13 night of the incident.

14 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah, I know, but
15 I'm saying that you said he was not at -- he
16 wasn't at the incident or was he not at the
17 training?

18 MR. LEFTWICH: He wasn't at the incident.
19 He didn't remain at the incident. He didn't
20 remain at the establishment the night of the
21 incident.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, all right.

1 MR. LEFTWICH: So, once they closed he
2 left before we were able to get there.

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: What was the reason
4 again?

5 MR. LEFTWICH: He had to go -- we were
6 informed that he had to go and pick up his child.

7 MR. SHORT: Did he attend the training?

8 MR. LEFTWICH: Yes he did.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right, that's
10 it? Mr. Shirafkan?

11 MR. SHIRAFKAN: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I wrote it to try
13 to -- you know everyone else is more familiar
14 with you than I am, so all right. What do you
15 have to present on behalf of the establishment,
16 sir?

17 MR. SHIRAFKAN: Mr. Chair, thank you and
18 members of the Board. Thank you for, first of
19 all giving us this opportunity to be here and
20 explain with regards to what happened. Now, as
21 you have heard many, many cases being on this
22 Board, you're aware that incidents do happen.

1 So, there's no denying that this incident did
2 happen, that two foes, maybe three, were injured
3 and that a person was shot a block -- at the gas
4 station some distance away. But, the question is
5 not whether an incident happened, the question is
6 what could be done to prevent an incident
7 happening and then what was done as a reaction to
8 this incident? Because there is just no bullet-
9 proof, 100%, I don't think there's any place that
10 has zero incidents, nothing can happen.

11 Looking at the report and looking at what
12 happened here, I don't know if the Board has had
13 the chance to review the video footage that was
14 given to the MPD and to the ABRA investigators,
15 but there's certain data that I wanted to share
16 with you that I think it's worth highlighting.
17 There was a show going on -- there was a semi
18 concert show of an artist performing basically on
19 a stage.

20 I looked at the video and it's amazing
21 because there is a correlation when the show is
22 over and we're looking at this after the fact --

1 when the show is over, literally within one
2 minute, faces are here looking at the show, the
3 show is over, everybody looks back and people
4 start leaving. I pause you on that because that
5 goes into reaction because that's when the
6 incident actually happens.

7 Looking back at prior to the show
8 happening, the beginning of this night, when the
9 operator decided to open his doors that night,
10 they had an ample number of many security
11 members, I think on the night of the incident
12 they had -- and you'll indulge us -- 48 security
13 members that had signed in that were there, 15
14 bartenders, five managers, nine barback and four
15 busboys, and 16 outside special events security
16 personnel that they had brought in, in
17 anticipation of this event to make sure to have a
18 number of security members there. But in regards
19 to MPD they usually have four MPD officers that
20 are assigned as detail officers there.

21 I did bring, in case it hadn't been
22 provided, or there was any questions as to it,

1 the e-mails that were sent to the sergeant with
2 MPD and I brought enough copies, that shows they
3 communicated with MPD, told that we need four
4 additional members, that e-mail was replied back
5 that these changes were submitted so they're
6 expecting eight MPD detail officers to be there
7 that night.

8 Now, I'll come back to this in a second
9 with MPD, not everybody showing up, but with
10 regards to their security cameras. As you heard,
11 there were 52 cameras and I will note that back
12 in February, I believe it was, because we had an
13 OIC on an earlier incident, and ABRA
14 investigators had gone to the establishment,
15 reviewed their security camera positioning, if
16 the Board recalls it, and this was on January 6
17 that we came, and we came back on February 10th,
18 again to confirm that these cameras, their
19 positioning, was confirmed by ABRA and they said,
20 yes, we don't want you to change it, this is
21 where it is. And so those cameras were
22 functioning, were where they were supposed to be,

1 and not only that but the establishment on their
2 own had even upgraded two of the DVRs -- they
3 have four DVRs -- two of the DVRs. They upgraded
4 the system itself to a label called Lorex, where
5 Lorex is apparently one of the highest or best in
6 this field or in this area, high resolution, good
7 retrieving, all of that, and that was just on
8 their own.

9 They had done this as well to make sure
10 that the camera systems are working and, thank
11 God, they're working fine, and the search
12 procedure, and I'll get back to when the show's
13 over -- but the search procedure further, I
14 brought pictures for you to look at and if you
15 see the video you will see those -- may I pass
16 these to you so you can look at it? If you don't
17 mind, I'll give a copy to the investigators so
18 that way they know that what I'm saying is
19 depicted on the video. So, this is the e-mails
20 and these are the pictures. And if you look at
21 the pictures, you will see that the search
22 procedures that night, even though their security

1 plan does not call for it, they were not required
2 to do this. They search everyone, they wand
3 everyone, and then they have folks take their
4 shoes off and look with a flashlight inside their
5 shoes, and that may read questions as to it, but
6 they wanted to make sure that they are doing
7 everything possible.

8 Now, that's not to say that on every
9 event because some events just don't call for it,
10 but they took every measure to prevent, to make
11 sure people know that we are searching and you
12 better not even think about bringing anything in
13 this place. The night began and when the show is
14 over, everyone is trying to leave. But looking
15 at the videos I haven't been able to see the
16 altercation, and frankly I don't think -- and
17 maybe it's just an opinion -- I don't think the
18 movement that happens on the video that we see is
19 actually the altercation and the reason I say
20 that is because I think the hallway is actually
21 just people moving out of the way for the
22 security.

1 But regardless, when you look at the
2 video, I wrote the timings down, and as the
3 investigator stated too, I think it was within
4 six seconds where there was an indication of an
5 issue and the first security puts the light on.
6 Within 10 to 15 seconds later, the next officer
7 notices that light and he comes over, so the
8 reaction now -- we're looking at the reaction
9 phase -- security on the response time, they're
10 right on it, they escort the individual out and I
11 believe on the report even it said both victims
12 that were spoken to, they said yes, right away.

13 And I will go to a report because there
14 are sentences here that I wanted to point out.
15 Victim 2 had stated that he ran out of this
16 restaurant and notified -- he stated that he ran
17 out the establishment and notified a member of
18 security who alerted police officers stationed
19 outside the club. So, as soon as the security,
20 this individual that had walked out himself,
21 immediately the first security does is tells MPD.
22 Victim 1 stated that he was immediately

1 approached by a club security member who carried
2 him out the club and began administering him
3 first aid and called an ambulance, again showing
4 immediately as soon as this happens, the reaction
5 is what they're supposed to do.

6 They notified MPD and on the video you
7 will see that as soon as the person comes out --
8 and I brought pictures of those as well -- MPD is
9 right away on the scene and they basically do
10 exactly what we talked about last time we were
11 here. MPD, help, ambulance, music down, lights
12 up, what do we do now? Preserve the crime scene.
13 These are the things that we were talking about
14 last time we were here as to what is exactly the
15 right thing to do when an incident happens? Now,
16 at that point I will make a note of this, and not
17 that it makes a lot of difference in this, but
18 MPD takes over and the establishment says "all
19 right, what do you want us to do?" Well, the
20 music did turn down and the lights did go up, but
21 then MPD decided to do something that I think the
22 fire marshal would have been very upset about,

1 because they told the establishment "shut all
2 the doors down. Nobody leaves except the small
3 door that's on the side entrance of the front."

4 The establishment is looking at what MPD
5 is saying, so we have to do, but look, this is
6 creating a problem, because the lights are up,
7 the music is out, this incident had just
8 happened, folks want to leave and you're telling
9 us to shut it down and even if they had MPD who
10 was standing at that door checking for someone I
11 would have said maybe. But there was no MPD even
12 standing at that door. So, it creates this issue
13 for the establishment inside the place of people
14 are getting really upset now. What -- we're
15 going to have mayhem on our hands.

16 Finally, as soon as the ambulance takes
17 Victim 1, I believe it was, out, management talks
18 to MPD, "look, somebody's going to get hurt if we
19 don't let these folks out." That door right now
20 is a barrier, we need to open all the doors and
21 let these people out, and that's when the big
22 let-out is. And I'll tell you why I'm mentioning

1 this part.

2 So, finally MPD says, "fine, open it all
3 up." All the doors open up, all these people
4 that were inside, now upset, were let out and
5 that's when they're upset. The shooting it's
6 recalled happened after this big let-out is put,
7 and I mention that because I think it is
8 important what instruction the club was given and
9 I don't think it was the best instruction but
10 they followed it in lieu of what they were -- I
11 guess they thought they should do.

12 Now, with regards to this victim of
13 shooting as well, I will tell you that I looked
14 at the MPD 251 and that was questionable for me
15 because the person said that he was attacked by a
16 few individuals, he heard someone say "freeze," a
17 shot was fired, he said then he looked up and he
18 saw an MPD officer, but then sometime later, he
19 has walked himself into a hospital.

20 I don't know where that report goes. I
21 don't know what that indicates, but it's just
22 questionable as to what happened with Victim 1

1 and 2 with individuals involved in the stabbing,
2 they also mention there was no altercation, there
3 was no fight, there was nothing they were
4 involved in that security should have been
5 notified or could have prevented this from
6 happening.

7 I'm going to pass up these images to you
8 which are what I was talking about, the stage,
9 when people are looking forward and then they're
10 looking the other way, the police being on the
11 scene, the flashlights of the security. Once MPD
12 is there they are fully cooperative, videos
13 recorded, issue is over. When ABRA investigators
14 arrive fully cooperative, I don't believe there
15 was any issues. They handed over whatever needed
16 to be and cooperated fully.

17 With regards to this one individual who
18 had to leave, he hadn't planned on this incident.
19 No one had planned on this happening. He had a
20 child who was being taken care of by I think the
21 mother or someone who had to go to work. He did
22 leave. However, his information was readily

1 available. The manager of the security was
2 informed of what took place and he was told that
3 well, I don't know if the MPD specifically talked
4 to him, but my understanding is ABRA
5 investigators arrived after the MPD investigator
6 was there, so he had basically left at that point
7 but I don't know, but I don't think there was an
8 issue of "if you need to talk to him we can get
9 you his information." That's the reason why he
10 had to leave, he said, "I gotta go get my kid,
11 let me know if there's something else that I need
12 to do."

13 Your indulgence just for a second. Now,
14 since this incident -- so, this happens and they
15 sit back and they say, 'well, what could be do?
16 What can we do still to make it even better?"
17 What they did immediately was the training. We
18 notified ABRA that "look, we'll have a refresher
19 course. We'll have every security go through
20 this refresher of the security plan, of what is
21 to be done and not done, and frankly that wasn't
22 so much for -- well I don't believe it was

1 because we thought we had done something wrong,
2 per se, but 1) we said it never hurts to refresh;
3 2) We wanted to let the staff know and boost
4 their morale because they're also looking at it
5 as "we did everything you told us, what are we
6 supposed to do?" So we wanted them to say, "look
7 at this training, there's more training and
8 there's always going to be more training, and
9 there's always to learn from this."

10 Further, MPD has been notified and
11 although the establishment is only required to
12 have four MPD detail, they have already contacted
13 MPD and they have agreed that from this point on,
14 on Saturdays, they're going to have six MPD
15 officers there, just to take measures. Again,
16 this was not something that could have been
17 prevented, the reaction was exactly what I
18 believe we want establishments to do, and from
19 thereon they still have taken actions to make
20 sure that they do the right thing. That's all
21 for me, thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.

1 Silverstein?

2 MR. SILVERSTEIN: My first question is
3 for Mr. Leftwich, the investigator. Is there any
4 -- the response that the establishment had to
5 this incident, were there any flaws?

6 MR. LEFTWICH: No, I didn't have any
7 concerns. When we got there they were very
8 cooperative and the video, and even in my report
9 it states that I can see the incident occurring
10 or building up at 2:20 -- between 2:22:10 and
11 2:22:13, and I immediately saw security response
12 by 2:22:37, so within that same minute of the
13 incident happening there was a response and then
14 I was able to watch via the camera, security
15 personnel guiding them out, and when I got there
16 the crime scene was still sectioned off and
17 covered and everyone was very cooperative.

18 MR. SILVERSTEIN: So, the response was
19 essentially almost -- I wouldn't want to praise
20 for something like this, but picture perfect.

21 MR. LEFTWICH: Yes, I was, and even as
22 mentioned the security procedures in regards to

1 searching, while reviewing the video footage I
2 said, my personal experience, I've never seen any
3 establishment have their patrons take their shoes
4 off. I was thoroughly impressed and surprised
5 about that.

6 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Andargie, you say
7 that there were 48 security officers, 15
8 bartenders and 9 bar-backs, busboys, 16 outside
9 special events security officers plus RDO. How
10 many patrons?

11 MR. ANDARGIE: That night we had roughly
12 850 to 900.

13 MR. SILVERSTEIN: How many?

14 MR. ANDARGIE: 850 to 900.

15 MR. SILVERSTEIN: 850 to 900.

16 MR. ANDARGIE: I didn't have the exact
17 totals.

18 MR. SILVERSTEIN: What was the concert?

19 MR. ANDARGIE: It was a performer by the
20 name of Young Dolph.

21 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Who?

22 MR. ANDARGIE: He's a hip hop artist.

1 MR. SILVERSTEIN: A hip hop artist?

2 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah.

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: What role did the
4 concert play, do you think?

5 MR. ANDARGIE: We've had him before,
6 we've never had any issues. It was just a
7 situation where people just had an altercation.
8 It wasn't necessarily the event being a catalyst
9 for it.

10 MR. SILVERSTEIN: My -- what happened?

11 MR. ANDARGIE: I don't know, to be quite
12 frank with you.

13 MR. SILVERSTEIN: That being the case, my
14 other question I have to ask you, the security
15 looks great, but why -- were you concerned? I
16 mean, you know, things happen, that -- people get
17 shot on buses, people get shot in the middle of
18 the street. These things do occur and if it does
19 occur it's not always the fault of where it
20 occurs, if people are gunning for one another.
21 But with all of this security, it leads me to
22 believe that you had some concerns, either that

1 there's something going on in the area or, you
2 know, why did you -- why did you take all of
3 these preparations on this one night?

4 MR. ANDARGIE: To be honest with you,
5 I've been in business for about 11 years and
6 anytime I have a larger crowd I always ask for
7 extra SOD. That's my personal experience.

8 MR. SILVERSTEIN: So basically, a larger
9 crowd and --

10 MR. ANDARGIE: Larger crowd, traffic --

11 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Maybe a little concern
12 with hip hop or no concern with hip hop, or no
13 concern with the group, or no concern with the
14 neighborhood.

15 MR. ANDARGIE: It's not hip hop -- it
16 wasn't the neighborhood.

17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Or some kind of beef
18 that's going on?

19 MR. ANDARGIE: I have no idea of any beef
20 between any rival parties or anything like that.
21 I was just concerned and that anytime I expect a
22 larger crowd or a larger turnout I try to prepare

1 myself and the establishment to make sure that
2 the establishment is safe for my patrons. I
3 always ask for extra detail, and also have my
4 staff aware.

5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Do you think that the
6 steps that you did take might have kept this from
7 getting worse? You wanted --

8 MR. SHIRAFKAN: I just wanted to mention
9 also that 1) as Ms. Mentioned on Halloween I
10 believe they have the same exact artist and thank
11 goodness no incident, and this is not the only
12 time that the licensee has chosen to take this
13 kind of measures just so we're clear. This
14 wasn't the only time they said, "let's check
15 shoes." On any night they take it on their own
16 that if they feel like, "well, we have a larger
17 number, weather is getting good, weather is not
18 getting good, it's been raining for two weeks and
19 now everybody wants to come out," whatever their
20 judgment is "let's take extra measures" and
21 frankly from last time that we came here they are
22 extremely paranoid. They want to be extremely

1 safe. They want to be above the regular standard
2 just so nothing happens."

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr.
4 Shirafkan. Thank you all. No further questions,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
7 questions by any of the Board members? Go ahead,
8 Mr. Short.

9 MR. SHORT: I'd just like to know what is
10 -- what was the age group?

11 MR. ANDARGIE: It's 21 and up on
12 Saturday.

13 MR. SHORT: 21 and up? Okay. Oh boy. I
14 have no further questions, nothing else.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Miller?

16 MS. MILLER: Good afternoon. Was there
17 more than one perpetrator in the stabbing? You
18 don't know?

19 MR. SHIRAFKAN: We don't know. No one
20 knows as far as how, because the victims didn't
21 see it, they weren't involved in anything, no one
22 -- to this day no one knows what exactly happened

1 and how this happened.

2 MS. MILLER: Okay, so the police haven't
3 figured it out yet?

4 MR. ANDARGIE: No.

5 MS. MILLER: Did you have any
6 communications back to the police about your
7 concern of their telling you to close all the
8 doors?

9 MR. SHIRAFKAN: No, I haven't addressed
10 that.

11 MS. MILLER: And part of the reason I ask
12 is because you said that you want to do
13 everything can to prevent anything from happening
14 in the future, so if you thought that that was a
15 mistake, do you think you have someone you can
16 communicate with in the police department to
17 discuss it?

18 MR. ANDARGIE: It's definitely something
19 that I'm going to address.

20 MS. MILLER: Okay.

21 MR. ANDARGIE: It was just something that
22 -- I really needed some time to digest exactly

1 what occurred because it -- you know, of course,
2 they're out there, they look out for us, you know
3 -- they're protecting our interests as well so
4 we're both on the same team. So for me I'm not
5 necessarily in the security profession and for me
6 to suggest something, it's something that I have
7 to do with a very gentle hand okay?

8 MS. MILLER: Mm hmm. But it's also a
9 good -- I always think it's a good idea to
10 understand -- maybe they had a good reason that
11 you're not aware of. I mean, just giving them
12 the ultimate benefit of the doubt. But I think
13 that that dialogue is important. How large a
14 crowd did you have, did you say?

15 MR. ANDARGIE: That night, I have the --
16 it was about 900 people, it was 850 to 900 off
17 the top of my head. I believe it's within that
18 range.

19 MS. MILLER: Okay, so is that something
20 you consider whether that's a factor in the
21 future, how large a crowd you have?

22 MR. ANDARGIE: We've had crowds of that

1 size. It wasn't necessarily something that we --
2 beforehand, I had a feeling that it might be a
3 popular event based on ticket sales. That's why
4 I asked for the extra SOD and that's essentially
5 the reason why I was prepared for that.

6 MS. MILLER: Okay, okay. That could have
7 happened with a smaller crowd.

8 MR. ANDARGIE: Yeah.

9 MS. MILLER: How about the stabbing?
10 Because it seems like you've showed us that do
11 extensive searches before they come in, including
12 their shoes. What do you do exactly?

13 MR. ANDARGIE: As far as the search
14 procedures?

15 MS. MILLER: Yeah, the search.

16 MR. ANDARGIE: We first do the wand,
17 wand and then the second part is a physical
18 search and the third part is we have seats
19 available to them and it's -- you know -- they
20 take off their shoes and we investigate their
21 shoe, and we tap the shoe, the two shoes, the
22 pair of shoes, that's pretty much.

1 MS. MILLER: Do you do bags as well?
2 Check the bags?

3 MR. ANDARGIE: Yes, on the females, all
4 bags are checked.

5 MS. MILLER: All bags. Okay. So
6 somebody got stabbed, though. Do you have any
7 theories or information as to how? What they
8 were stabbed with?

9 MR. ANDARGIE: To be honest with you, I
10 asked the off -- I mean it was an ongoing
11 investigation so it was limited information I
12 could retrieve in regards to that. The only
13 thing I overheard was there was like a circular
14 cut, but I'm not sure.

15 MS. MILLER: So, what kind of glass do
16 patrons have access to in your establishment?

17 MR. ANDARGIE: They don't have any access
18 to any -- we do paper cups, even with, it's like
19 a hard plastic kind of cup, even for beer as
20 well.

21 MS. MILLER: Okay. So you don't even
22 have like glasses?

1 MR. ANDARGIE: We pour the beer into
2 these hard plastic cups.

3 MR. SHIRAFKAN: If I may, the beers are
4 all the canned beers and the glassware are the
5 plexi plastic type and I think from the pictures
6 that I saw of the crime scene I didn't -- I guess
7 in one way it's good and in one way it's bad --
8 but I didn't see broken glass and I don't think,
9 you know we're completely speculating.

10 MS. MILLER: Right.

11 MR. SHIRAFKAN: I don't know, it could be
12 a pencil, I don't know, but I don't see broken
13 glass there either. It was just broken plastic
14 cups.

15 MS. MILLER: Okay, so it's not like you
16 serve wine in glasses or anything or beer or
17 anything like that? Wow, okay. I guess that's
18 all, thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti?

20 MR. ALBERTI: Thank you for coming in.
21 Look, I mean, it sounds like the response was
22 adequate and what it should be so I'm not trying

1 to pick you apart here, but I do need to know,
2 what was the name of the band, I missed it?

3 MR. ANDARGIE: Young Dolph, D-O-L-P-H.

4 MR. ALBERTI: Young Doll?

5 MR. ANDARGIE: Young Dolph. Yes.

6 MR. ALBERTI: D-O-L-F?

7 MR. ANDARGIE: Like dolphin, but Dolph.

8 MR. ALBERTI: Okay, okay. So, one of the
9 things I guess that concerns me a little and I
10 don't know if it should be a concern, but the
11 victim was carried out. So, Mr. Leftwich's
12 reacting, and before you answer -- I'm going to
13 let you have a word -- just I'm wondering if
14 that's the safest place to take the victim, or if
15 it's necessary to do that, if there's a better
16 way -- so I'm looking towards the future here,
17 I'm not trying to pick -- you know -- find fault,
18 I'm trying to -- Mr. Leftwich you kind of had a
19 reaction, go ahead.

20 MR. LEFTWICH: Yeah, that was the word
21 that was used even by MPD and even some security
22 personnel, but after reviewing the video he

1 wasn't carried out, he walked out, there was
2 security.

3 MR. ALBERTI: Both victims?

4 MR. LEFTWICH: Well, the main one that we
5 saw security -- you don't see victim 2 because he
6 was sitting outside and then one of the --

7 MR. ALBERTI: Okay, so he obviously took
8 himself out.

9 MR. LEFTWICH: But the main one had the
10 stab wound to his neck, back and leg, they even
11 when I got there they said he was carried out and
12 then after reviewing the footage he walked out,
13 security was with him and they guided him out.

14 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. All right.

15 MR. SHIRAFKAN: Victim 2, it was my
16 understanding, he was sitting outside and I
17 guess he didn't even know that he had been hurt,
18 somebody walked by and told him.

19 MR. ALBERTI: All right. That was my
20 only concern. Because we appreciate that you
21 think about what you're doing -- and the last
22 one, a bit of more concern on your personnel

1 saying that not everyone was there for security
2 training and even some of the people who were
3 there that evening were at the additional
4 training, do you know who that was that wasn't
5 there? Is that a concern to you?

6 MR. SHIRAFKAN: Yeah, for the additional
7 training a lot of bartenders and some security
8 individuals weren't available for the refresher
9 because it was a short time period we had really
10 to notify staff.

11 MR. ALBERTI: Okay.

12 MR. SHIRAFKAN: It wasn't -- we try to
13 push it but a lot of people had things scheduled
14 where they couldn't get out of it.

15 MR. ALBERTI: So, you'll make sure that
16 the next training you have there will be these
17 individuals there? Okay. Thank you. That's all
18 I have, thanks.

19 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I was googling
20 Young Dolph.

21 MR. ALBERTI: And the music you were
22 hearing was I was trying to find it.

1 MR. SHIRAFKAN: I haven't seen the images
2 but please don't judge it.

3 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: They're good
4 images. They're Google. I mean, I'm not
5 familiar with the person, so -- but I don't
6 necessarily think it's the crowd, so I'm not from
7 that respect, I was just curious who this person
8 was because I never -- not that I know all of the
9 artists out there, but I was just curious. All
10 right, do we have any other questions by any
11 other Board members or me? I guess. Do the
12 investigators have any closing statements,
13 anything you want to say? On behalf of your
14 client, sir, do you have any closing statement?

15 MR. SHIRAFKAN: None. Thank you. Thank
16 you for your time.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: I mean, I thank
18 you very much for the presentation. I mean, I'm
19 not quite sure -- I don't think there is really
20 anything else the Board can do so I'll just say
21 that we'll take no further action, but thank you
22 for being proactive and thank you for doing what

1 you do. I know it's the entertainment industry
2 these days is somewhat -- it's not the safest
3 venue. I'm not just talking about Bliss, I'm
4 just saying generally.

5 MR. SHIRAFKAN: Yeah.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I thank you
7 for being -- trying to be proactive and trying to
8 allow the residents to enjoy themselves but at
9 the same time to be safe. So, I think you for
10 being proactive and I appreciate the efforts that
11 you have done in trying to create a venue that
12 younger folks can enjoy but at the same time
13 safely.

14 MR. SHIRAFKAN: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, Mr.
16 Silverstein.

17 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I would like to also
18 thank all of you. The preparation for this was
19 outstanding. The presentation was outstanding.
20 You didn't waste any time at all. You got to the
21 facts here, everyone was prepared, and we know
22 what we need to know. I thank you very much.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Okay, all right,
2 thank you.

3 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Are we off the record?

4 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yes, we're off the
5 record.

6 (Whereupon at 4:19 p.m. the above-
7 entitled matter concluded.)

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